

Statistics
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INFOMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales rose to \$396.1 million in January, up 19.0% from a year earlier. Increases were recorded in all regions of Canada.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month, with percentage increases over January 1975 in brackets.

- Ontario, \$143.8 million (15.1%); Quebec, \$76.0 million (22.8%); British Columbia, \$66.9 million (18.7%); Alberta, \$54.5 million (24.4%); Manitoba, \$21.7 million (16.1%); Atlantic Provinces, \$21.0 million (16.8%) and Saskatchewan, \$11.4 million (33.8%).

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50 per year).

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in January were estimated at \$3.46 billion, up 13.3% from January 1975.

In the consumer goods trades, the groceries and food specialties component showed a gain of 15.8%. In the industrial goods trades, sales of other construction materials and supplies, including lumber rose 32.0% from a year earlier.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6.24 billion in the latest month, up 2.0% from January 1975.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50).

Canadian Direct Investment Abroad, 1973

Canada's direct investment abroad in subsidiaries, affiliates and branches amounted to \$7.81 billion at the end of 1973, an increase of \$1.10 billion (16%) from 1972.

Direct investment in the United States rose 14% to \$3.92 billion and accounted for just over 50% of all Canadian direct investment abroad. Almost two-thirds of the growth in 1973 was due to investment in mining and petroleum.

Direct investment in the United Kingdom increased by \$167 million to \$797 million. Canadian investment in Australia registered a 14% gain to \$385 million and direct investment in Bermuda jumped 36% to \$351 million.

Over one-half of total Canadian direct investment abroad was in manufacturing and investment in this industrial component grew \$28 million to \$3.92 billion at the end of 1973. However, the largest addition, \$446 million, was recorded in mining and petroleum and direct investment in this sector at \$1.48 billion ranked next behind manufacturing and ahead of utilities, which increased more moderately to \$1.27 billion.

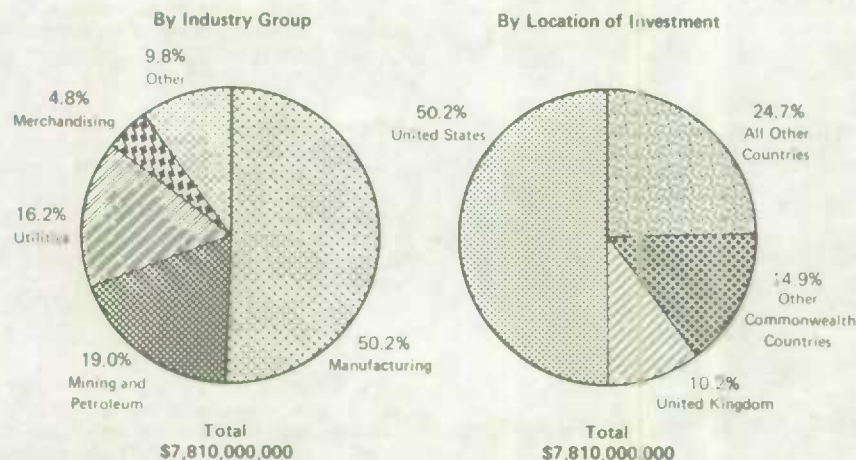
For further information, contact B. Merseureau (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME			
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec. 209.28p	213.09p	13.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec. 7,398p	7,526p	9.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.* 9.18	9.15	3.2
Unemployed	Feb.* 800,000	800,000	8.5
INVENTORIES			
Department Store (\$ million)	Dec. 1,338	1,668	3.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec. 15,415p	15,090r	5.1
Wholesale (\$ million)	Dec. 6,109	5,881	2.9
ORDERS			
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 7,300p	7,357r	9.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 9,846p	9,783r	-4.7
PRICES			
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb. 145.6	145.1	9.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Dec. 157.2	156.8	6.4
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Dec. 501.6	500.5r	3.9
CONSTRUCTION			
Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec. 830.4p	10,556	13.7
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Jan.* 12,450	12,450	74.5
ENERGY			
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Nov. 2,402	25,275	22.1
Electricity Generation (billion kwh.)	Jan.* 27.5	27.5	3.4
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	June 265.1	1,731.8	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec. 57.5	622.0	-3.8
FOREIGN TRADE			
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan. 2,823	2,823	4.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan. 3,026	3,026	6.9
PRODUCTION			
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Jan. 137.8	137.8	49.7
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb.* 1,083	2,241	-7.0
SALES			
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.* 396.1	396.1	19.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec. 7,237p	85,101	6.0
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 412.9	412.9	11.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 5,770	50,482	13.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 3,818	45,377	5.0

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary. r - revised. * - new this week.

Canadian Direct Investment Abroad, 1973



Source: Canada's International Investment Position (67-202)

The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose to 7.0% in February from 6.6% in January. The increase brought the rate back to that recorded throughout the latter part of 1975.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over increased to 4.0% from 3.9% in January while for women 25 and over it rose to 5.9% from 5.7%. For persons aged 15 to 24, the unemployment rate jumped to 13.1% from 12.1%.

Between January and February, the seasonally-adjusted participation rate — percentage of the population 15 and over included in the labour force — remained unchanged at 61.3%.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed increased to 9.18 million in February from 9.15 million in January and was up from 8.89 million in February 1975.

The actual unemployment total was 800,000 or 8.0% of the 9.98 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 15.4%; New Brunswick, 12.6%; British Columbia, 9.9%; Quebec, 9.7%; Nova Scotia, 9.2%; Ontario, 6.8%; Manitoba, 5.9%; Saskatchewan, 5.5%; and Alberta, 4.5%.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

Farm Wages in Canada

The average wage, without board, for farm workers in Canada was \$3.08 an hour in January, up from \$2.68 a year earlier. Average rates ranged from \$2.67 an hour in the Maritime Provinces to \$3.57 in British Columbia.

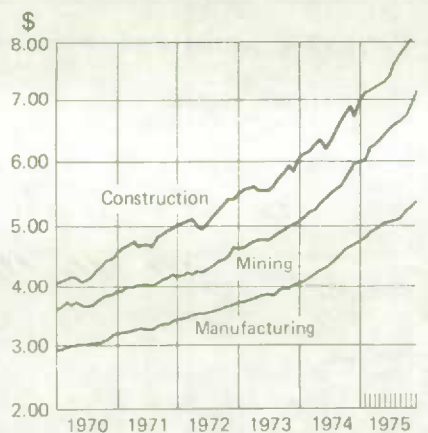
Where board was provided by the employer, the average hourly wage rate paid to male hired help on farms was \$2.66 in January compared with \$2.28 in January 1975. Hourly rates were highest in British Columbia (\$3.13) and lowest in Quebec (\$2.31).

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Farm Wages in Canada* (21-002, 35¢/\$1.05).

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Department Store Sales and Stocks, January
Employment, Earnings and Hours, January
Estimates of Labour Income, January
General Wholesale Price Index, January
New Motor Vehicle Sales, February
Retail Trade, January
Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade, February

Average Hourly Earnings in Canadian Industry



Source: Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

Canadian Balance of International Payments Fourth Quarter 1975

Canada's seasonally-adjusted current account deficit widened to \$1.36 billion in the fourth quarter of 1975 from \$1.24 billion in the previous quarter.

There was a reduction of \$141 million in the deficit on merchandise trade as exports grew at twice the rate of imports, but this was more than offset by an increase in the deficit on services, based mainly on rising interest and dividend payments.

Total capital movements, unadjusted for seasonal variations, produced a net capital inflow of \$1.42 billion in the fourth quarter of 1975, a substantial jump from \$772 million in the third quarter. The capital inflow exceeded the unadjusted current account deficit of \$1.32 billion, increasing Canada's official monetary assets by \$98 million.

For further information, order *Canadian Balance of International Payments, Fourth Quarter 1975* (67-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

Mineral Production

Canadian production of primary metals in January, with comparable 1975 figures in brackets:

- Gold, 148,947 troy ounces (129,398);
- Silver, 3,443,201 troy ounces (3,130,657);
- Copper, 75,603 short tons (55,832);
- Nickel, 22,716 short tons (25,041);
- Refined lead, 19,370 short tons (19,537);
- Refined zinc, 42,042 short tons (51,080).

For further information, order the January 1976 issues of: *Gold Production* (26-004, 15¢/\$1.50); *Silver, Lead and Zinc Production* (26-008, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Copper and Nickel Production* (26-003, 15¢/\$1.50); or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Canadian Balance of Payments, 1975

In 1975 Canada's current account deficit was a record \$5.07 billion, almost \$3.5 billion greater than in 1974. This was a major reason why the growth in the Canadian economy as measured by Gross National Product in constant dollars was recorded as a slight 0.2% for 1975.

The most significant factor in the increased deficit from the previous year was merchandise trade which shifted from a surplus of \$1.5 billion to a deficit of \$800 million. However, as import prices were rising more than 5% faster than export prices, the shift in the balance on merchandise trade was considerably less in constant dollar terms. Canada's exports contracted in volume by about 7% in 1975 while imports fell by some 5%.

A substantial rise also occurred in the deficit on services which advanced by about \$1 billion. Almost one-half of this was attributable to an increase in net payments of interest and dividends increasing largely as a result of capital inflows required to finance the current account deficit. Net payments on international travel increased by \$422 million.

Capital movements during 1975 produced a record net inflow of \$4.7 billion. This massive flow was \$3 billion greater than in 1974 and was underpinned by gross sales of \$4.9 billion in new issues of Canadian securities.

The current account deficit of \$5.07 billion coupled with the capital account inflow of \$4.57 billion resulted in a decrease of \$404 million in Canada's net official monetary assets during 1975.

For further information, order *Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact D.W. Anderson (613-995-0743), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$75.8 million in January, an increase of 25.4% from January 1975.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 19.1% to \$252.7 million in the latest month; operating expenses advanced 16.6% to \$176.8 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$144.9 million in January showed an increase of 23.0% from a year earlier.

The systems reported a total of 86,109 employees, down by 720 from January 1975.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 6, No. 8, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, January 1976.

The Dairy Review

Milk Production in Canada in January totalled 1.3 billion pounds, an increase of 13.6% from a year earlier.

Revised data show that total milk produced in 1975 amounted to 17.7 billion pounds, up 5.1% from the 1974 figure.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, 40¢/\$4).

Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly totalled \$18.66 billion at the end of January, an increase of 14.6% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from January 31, 1975:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$13.21 billion (21.0%);
- Sales finance and consumer companies'
 - small loans, \$247 million (-14.8%);
 - large loans, \$1.49 billion (-0.2%);
 - retail instalment sales paper, \$1.13 billion (-1.1%);
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1.17 billion (8.5%);
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and appliance stores, \$1.35 billion (5.0%);
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$58 million (34.9%).

Credit holders reporting quarterly had combined outstanding balances of \$5.03 billion at the end of the fourth quarter of 1975. Including these reporters, consumer credit outstanding at December 31 totalled \$23.73 billion, up 15.4% from the end of 1974.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3), or contact Retail Trade Section (613-926-9304 or Telex 053-3585), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Pension Plans in Canada, 1974

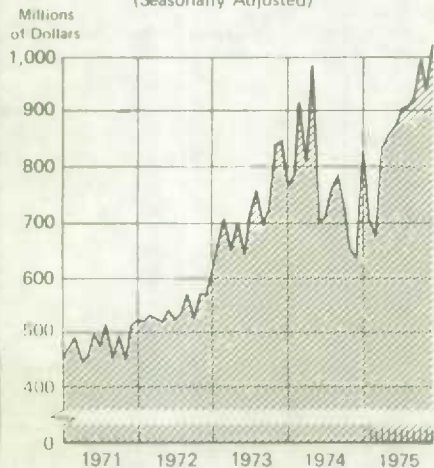
Membership in private pension plans in Canada reached a record 3.4 million workers at the beginning of 1974.

Annual employer and employee contributions made up by and on behalf of these employees amounted to over \$2.99 billion.

For further information, order *Pension Plans in Canada, 1974* (74-401, \$1.40).

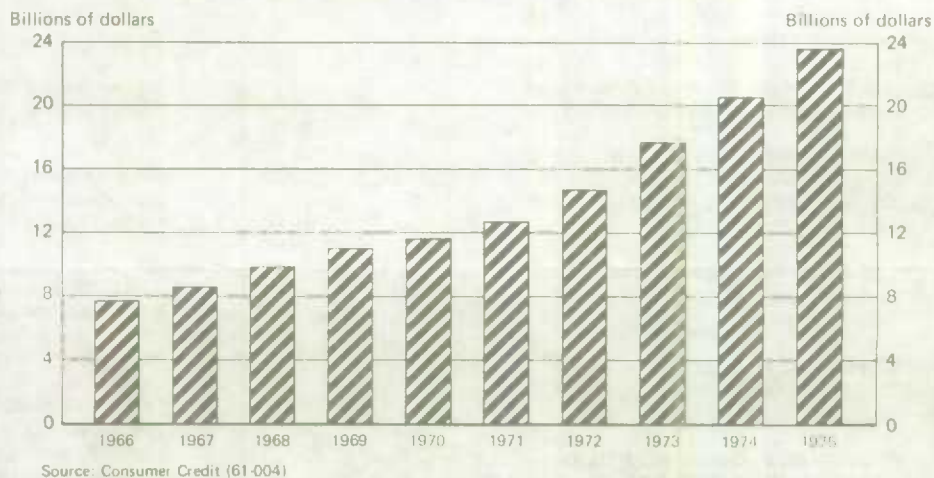
Building Permits, Canada

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Building Permits (64-001)

Consumer Credit Balances Outstanding, Selected Holders, Year-end 1966-75



Source: Consumer Credit (61-004)

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes rose in all 14 regional cities in February with increases ranging from 0.1% in Ottawa to 0.6% in Halifax, Quebec City and Montreal. Higher prices for housing — offset to some extent by lower prices for food — were the main contributors to this change.

Food indexes decreased in Ottawa and centres west, but increased in cities east of the nation's capital. Lower meat prices, particularly for beef, were largely responsible for the slowing down of food prices, but some of this was offset by higher prices for fresh fruit and vegetables.

Substantial increases in housing indexes resulted from price increases for new houses, dwelling insurance, rents and selected items of household operation.

Between February 1975 and February 1976, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities, with increases recorded as follows: Thunder Bay, 10.8%; Halifax, 10.6%; Winnipeg, 10.2%; Calgary, 10.1%; St. John's, 9.9%; Saskatoon, 9.9%; Regina, 9.8%; Edmonton, 9.7%; Saint John, 9.3%; Vancouver, 9.0%; Ottawa, 9.0%; Toronto, 8.8%; Montreal, 8.6%; and Quebec City, 8.3%.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities* (62-009, 30¢/\$3).

Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity increased 3.4% in January to 27.5 billion kilowatt hours from 26.6 billion kwh. a year earlier.

Hydro generation decreased 1.7% in the latest month, thermal production increased 17.9%.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

The Wheat Review

Total exports of wheat from the four traditional major exporters during August-December 1975 amounted to 985.5 million bushels, up 23% from the year-earlier level. Canadian wheat exports rose to 217.1 million bushels from 175.0 million bushels.

Total supplies of wheat remaining in these countries at January 1, 1976 for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,199.8 million bushels, an increase of 22% from the 1,796.7 million bushels on hand at the same date in 1975.

Supplies were held as follows, in millions of bushels and with last year's comparable figures in brackets: United States, 1,047.0 (804.6); Canada, 528.5 (507.7); Australia, 409.9 (371.7); and Argentina, 214.4 (112.7).

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *The Wheat Review* (22-005, 55¢/\$5.50).

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